


Government of the District of Columbia
Office of the Chief Financial Officer



Natwar M. Gandhi
Chief Financial Officer

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable Kwame R. Brown
Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia

FROM: Natwar M. Gandhi
Chief Financial Officer 

DATE: May 26, 2011

SUBJECT: Fiscal Impact Statement – “Ward Redistricting Amendment Act of 2011”

REFERENCE: Bill Number 19-219

Conclusion

Funds are not sufficient in the FY 2011 through FY 2014 budget and financial plan to implement the proposed legislation. Current law requires redistricting after the release of the decennial census and 180 days prior to an election. The proposed legislation is the legal vehicle for the redistricting requirement. However, implementation of the proposed legislation would result in unbudgeted costs to the Board of Elections and Ethics totaling \$200,000 in the FY 2011 budget. No out-year impact is anticipated given redistricting is only required every 10 years.

Background

The proposed legislation would redefine the election ward boundaries for the District of Columbia. The new configuration is the result of a periodic review of the District in conjunction with the release of decennial census data from the U.S. Census Bureau.

Financial Plan Impact

Funds are not sufficient in the FY 2011 through FY 2014 budget and financial plan to implement the proposed legislation. As a result of redistricting, the Board of Elections and Ethics is required to provide maps that indicate the election ward boundaries.¹ The cost to create and produce new maps will result in unbudgeted costs to the Board of Elections and Ethics in the FY 2011 budget totaling \$200,000. Federal and District anti-deficiency laws² prohibit District officers and employees from exceeding agency appropriations in any fiscal year.

¹ Pursuant to D.C. Official Code § 1-1011.01(a)(3)

² 31 U.S.C § 1341 (2007) and D.C. Official Code § 47-355.01 *et seq.* (2001)